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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

REST IN PEACE, JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, in "The Columbian Orator," a collection of speeches that Frederick Douglass read as a young man, there is a speech that says: "Let it be remembered, there is no luxury so exquisite as the exercise of humanity, and no post so honorable as his, who defends the rights of man."

Now, I don't know if Douglass read those exact words, but I do know a man

who embodied them better than anyone else in my lifetime: John Lewis. John's legacy is his love of country and humanity. He rose above prejudice and responded to force with forgiveness.

In his time, there was a lot that he couldn't love about America, but he never gave up on it or wanted to destroy it. Instead, he used what is right with America to fix what was wrong with it.

Because of his patriotism, our Nation has come a long way, not perfect, but more perfect, as we must always strive to be.

John was unquestionably one of the great champions of freedom in the modern age, and he secured his place as a giant in American history long before his career in Congress even began.

Born on a farm without running water or power, the son of a sharecropper rose to become a founding leader of the civil rights movement by the age of 23. As a young student, he showed courage and patience and dignity beyond his years.

From his lunch counter sit-ins, to the Freedom Riders, to Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, his unflinching example of nonviolence was a powerful call to arms. It was made irresistible by the fact that he, like Dr. King, sought to vindicate the core ideas of our founding documents by applying them to everyone.

Today, our task is to continue to uphold these timeless principles for all people. It will not be easy, but I am confident we will succeed, because we have the memories of leaders like John to guide us and inspire us.

I have several memories of my friendship with John that I will always treasure.

I remember my last time speaking with him, just 2 weeks before he passed away, talking about the latest uprising in America. I asked if John would spend a moment in time and do a conference call with the freshmen. They

had not had the opportunity to walk through Selma with him to give them the example of which he lived.

You see, my family and I have joined John many times in Selma, but the one that I will remember the most is on the 50th anniversary. To think for a moment that 50 years before, John came very close to death, and on that day 50 years later, he was introducing the President of the United States. Not only the idea that John would stand for all, he always had the patience to tell a student about what it was like before.

I remember at the State of the Union of 2015, there was Amelia Boynton Robinson. You see, she was with John that day 50 years prior, and she came here in hopes of meeting President Obama. She came by my office. And before, we stopped by John's office.

I told Amelia: Just wait right outside the Chambers here, because the President has an escort party, and in that escort party, I am one of them, but stand there and we will make sure when the President comes out, you will greet.

She had a picture of that day, and you will see John leading.

When John would tell you the story of the march across the bridge, he would walk you up to one certain place, then he said: I can tell you no more, because I cannot remember.

You see, they beat him unconscious, almost to his death, on that Bloody Sunday.

I remember sitting with TIM SCOTT, watching John speak about what happened that fateful day. I will never forget what he said.

When he would tell the story of the march, he would stop at a moment, as I said before, and say: I cannot remember past this point because I had been beaten. And I was carried back, and I almost died.

Reflecting on the violence he endured, he said with humility that he

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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